

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Kenai Peninsula Borough****Project Title:**

Kenai Peninsula Borough - CPHSA Heritage Place Physical Therapy Program Startup Costs

State Funding Requested: \$ 40,000**House District: 33 - Q**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Program to partner with Whatcom Community College course for Physical Therapy Assistant program.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$90,000**

| | <u>Funding Secured</u> | | <u>Other Pending Requests</u> | | <u>Anticipated Future Need</u> | |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| | <i>Amount</i> | <i>FY</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>FY</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>FY</i> |
| State Funds | | | | | \$50,000 | FY 2010 & FY 2011 |
| Total | | | | | \$50,000 | |

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Whatcom Community College of Bellingham, Washington is expanding their distance delivered Physical Therapy Assistant program to include Alaska. Whatcom is supported by the State of Washington. CPH-Heritage Place is proposing to partner with them to provide this new training program in Alaska.

This course will be offered in the Spring of 2009 and the duration is two years and 1 quarter. The anticipated tuition will not provide full support for personnel, equipment, facilities and supplies.

This funding for \$40,000 is needed to initiate the program (start up costs for equipment, facilities, supplies, etc.). The next year funding level is projected at \$25,000 and then an additional \$25,000 the following year, for a total of \$90,000.

Project Timeline:

Upon notification of inclusion in the capital budget, the project will be bid and purchased - constructed with two years.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Central Peninsula Hospital Service Area

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Dennis Murry, Administrator

Phone Number: 714-5000

Address: 232 Rockwell Ave.; Soldotna, AK 99669

Email: www.cpgh.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No



February 17, 2008

Senator Tom Wagner
State Capital
Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182

Don (mea culpa)

Dear Tom:

I would like to provide you with some very positive and encouraging information about a partnership between Alaska and Whatcom Community College of Bellingham, Washington.

For the past two years Alaska has had a dialogue with the leadership of Whatcom Community College concerning the opportunity to partner with them to offer a Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program in Alaska for Alaskan students. PTA has been identified as a health career in Alaska with a significant vacancy factor. Currently, Alaska does not have a 2 year associate degree program in this field.

The University of Alaska has been involved in the development of this program. As well, several private clinics in the communities of Kenai and Soldotna have expressed a desire to help in the development of this opportunity (Kenai Kids Therapy, Frontier Therapy, Kenai Orthopedic Therapy (formerly Aspen clinic) and Central Peninsula Hospital Physical Therapy).

This past week, February 13-15, the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) sponsored the site visit by Whatcom Community College. Workforce Dean, Linda Maier, PTA program coordinator, Margaret Anderson, and instructor, Traci Norvell, visited in Kenai, Soldotna and Anchorage. They met with therapists, Gary Turner, director of Kenai Peninsula College (KPC), and David Wartner, professor at KPC and advisor for Health programs. Additionally, the team met with representatives from Providence Health Systems, Alaska Regional Hospital and UAA.

The status of the program is that Whatcom will be submitting their application to expand their distance delivered PTA program to be able to develop remote sites for the delivery of their PTA skills lab. Currently, the didactic portion of their 2 year degree is distance delivered, but the skills lab is offered at their campus. The national accreditation body, CAPTE, will need to approve the expansion to include the delivery of distance skills labs as part of their course structure. A decision by CAPTE is expected in May of this year, 2008.

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Letter to Senator Tom Wagner

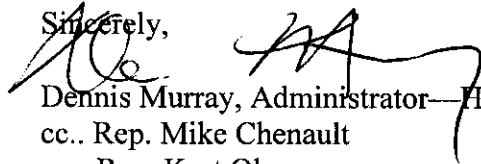
Alaska needs to provide financial support for this program to be offered in our state. The intent is to offer the course in Kenai-Soldotna beginning in the Spring of 2009. The duration is two years and 1 quarter. Whatcom is publicly supported by the State of Washington. The anticipated tuition from the students will not be able to provide the necessary support both for personnel, equipment, facilities, travel and supplies. This partnership is expected to continue into the future with cohorts of students admitted in other regional hubs of Alaska. This program is expected to have state-wide impact.

Funding will be necessary for the 3 year period. This first year the effort will be directed at securing instructors, a program site, a coordinator for the program, etc. The anticipated budget for SFY 2009 is \$40,000. This will decrease to \$25,000 in each succeeding fiscal year through SFY 2011. The total request is \$90,000.

Tom, your help and support is needed to secure a capital grant in the current legislative session in the amount of \$40,000. I know with your professional background that you are very aware of the value and necessity to train Alaskans for critical Health Careers. This is a tremendous opportunity for our state as we will be able to rely on the 15 years of experience of Whatcom Community College. Our state will not have to build an infrastructure or curriculum to accomplish this program. That is a tremendous savings making this outlay very favorable in terms of cost/benefit.

I look forward to your questions, and hope for your support in this session.

Sincerely,



Dennis Murray, Administrator—Heritage Place Nursing Facility
cc.. Rep. Mike Chenault
Rep. Kurt Olson
Mr. Ryan Smith, CEO—CPH
Mr. Al Parrish, Chair, ASHNHA
Mr. Rod Betit, Pres., ASHNHA